

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A device for making electrical contact with at least one tension member in a load bearing member used in an elevator system, comprising:

5 a spacer member that establishes physical spacing between portions of the tension members;

a holding member that holds the portions in a selected position relative to the spacer member; and

10 at least one electrical connector member supported by at least one of the spacer members or the holding member, the connector member being adapted to make electrically conductive contact with at least one of the tension members.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein the spacer member has a body that receives a first tension member on a first side of the body and a second tension member on a second, oppositely facing side of the body.

3. The device of claim 2, wherein the spacer member has at least one boss on at least one of the sides that receives a tension member on one side of the boss and another tension member on another side.

4. The device of claim 2, including a holding member associated with each of the first and second sides of the body.

5. The device of claim 4, wherein each holding member is moveably attached to the body and including a latch that secures each holding member in position to hold the portions in the selected positions.

6. The device of claim 1, including at least one boss that receives one tension member on one side of the boss and another tension member on another side of the boss.

7. The device of claim 6, wherein the spacer member has a body and all of the tension members are received on one side of the body.

5 8. The device of claim 1, wherein the electrical connector has an engaging surface that is adapted to penetrate at least partially through a coating over the tension member to thereby make the electrically conductive contact.

10 9. The device of claim 1, wherein the electrical connector is oriented relative to the device such that the connector contacts a distal end of the tension member when the tension member portion is positioned between the spacer and holder members.

15 10. The device of claim 1, wherein the spacer member has obliquely oriented surfaces that facilitate manipulating the spacer member between the portions.

11. The device of claim 1, wherein at least one of the holder member or the spacer member includes guide surfaces that facilitate centering at least one of the portions in a desired position relative to the connector member.

20 12. The device of claim 1, including a plurality of connector members.

13. A method of establishing an electrically conductive contact with at least one tension member in a load bearing member used in an elevator system, comprising:

- 5 separating a selected length of the load bearing member into discrete portions each having a tension member;
 inserting a spacer between the portions; and
 securing a conductive connector member to at least one of the tension members.

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14. The method of claim 13, wherein the load bearing member has a coating over the tension members and including separating the coating adjacent the tension member portions before inserting the spacer.

- 15 15. The method of claim 14, including cutting the coating in a longitudinal direction generally parallel to a length of the tension member portions.

16. The method of claim 13, wherein the load bearing member has a nonconductive coating over the tension members and including forcing at least a part
20 of the conductive connector member through the coating into contact with the at least one tension member.

17. The method of claim 16, including forcing at least a terminal end of the connector member into the tension member.

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18. The method of claim 13, including coupling a holder member with the spacer member to secure the belt portions in a selected position relative to the spacer.

19. The method of claim 13, including positioning the separated portions
30 on one side of the spacer member.

20. The method of claim 13, including positioning at least one of the portions on one side of the spacer member and at least one other of the portions on an opposite side of the spacer member.